

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated December 22, 2006. In the Office Action, all pending claims 1-22 were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 1, 12 and 21 are amended, claim 22 is canceled and claim 23 is added as a new claim in the application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bertness et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,104,167 in view of Tran, U.S. Publication No. 2003/0008202.

With this Amendment, claims 1 and 12 are amended only for the purpose of more particularly pointing out that the external device (125 of FIG. 1) and the battery (102 of FIG. 1) to which the charging signal is provided are separate from each other. Support for the claim amendments can be found in FIG. 1 and the corresponding description in the specification. Amended claim 21 is a combination of original claims 21 and 22.

Claim 1, which is directed to a battery charging an notification system, includes battery charging circuitry configured to couple to a battery and to provide a charging signal to the battery; communication circuitry, coupled to the charging circuitry, configured to transmit a signal upon receipt of a charge status code, related to the battery, from the battery charging circuitry; and an external device having an alarm configured to notify a user upon receipt of the transmitted signal from the communication circuitry, wherein the external device and the battery to which the charging signal is provided are separate from each other.

As indicated on page 2 of the Office Action, Bertness does not disclose an external device having an alarm to notify a user upon receipt of the transmitted signal. Further, Bertness does not suggest that feature. Therefore, the Office Action relies on Tran (citing page 3, paragraphs 36-38 and page 4, paragraph 46). However, that language of Tran, which is a description of FIG. 2 of Tran, is related to a single communication device 10 that includes a battery 48. Device 10 simply reports the capacity of its own battery 48. (See paragraph [0049] of Tran.)

Thus, as acknowledged in the Office Action, Bertness teaches a battery charger, which is a single device with no accompanying external device. Also, as noted above, Tran teaches a single communication device 10, which reports on the capacity of its own battery 48

and not a separate battery. Therefore, neither Bertness nor Tran, which each relate to single and independent devices, taken alone or in combination, show or suggest "charging circuitry . . . configured to provide a charging signal to the battery . . . communication circuitry . . . configured to transmit a signal . . . and an external device having an alarm configured to notify a user upon receipt of the transmitted signal from the communication circuitry, wherein the external device and the battery to which the charging signal is provided are separate from each other." (Emphasis Added.)

Further, Bertness and Tran are not combinable in a manner that produces the claimed invention. Device 10 of Tran is focused on the charging of its own battery and the reporting on the status of this internal battery. Receiving charging information and status information from other battery chargers about batteries in other devices in the device of Tran would simply cause confusion. Further, Tran is notifying a user of a device from within the same device and about the condition of the battery within that device. This is because the device relies on the internal battery for its power. Thus, any notification in Tran originates from the device and is carried out to ensure that the device receives power for proper operation. In contrast, Bertness simply teaches a battery charger, which is not connected to, or concerned with, the operation of any device whose battery it charges, and therefore the in-device notification of Tran is unrelated to, and unsuitable for, battery chargers of Bertness. Thus, claim 1 is non-obvious and allowable over Bertness and Tran.

Independent claim 12 has elements similar to that of independent claim 1. Thus, for the same reasons as independent claim 1, Applicants submit that independent claim 12 is allowable as well. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the dependent claims are also allowable by virtue of their dependency, either directly or indirectly, from the allowable independent claims. Further, the dependent claims when read in combination with the independent claims, set forth configurations not shown or suggested in the references.

Claim 23 is a newly added claim for which support can be found in FIG. 1 and the corresponding description in the specification. Also, page 13, line 23, indicates that the external device (for example, a pager) is run on rechargeable batteries. These rechargeable batteries are separate from, and independent of, the battery to which the charging signal is provided. Neither Bertness or Tran, taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest "battery charging circuitry

configured to couple to a battery and to provide a charging signal to the battery; communication circuitry, coupled to the charging circuitry, configured to transmit a signal upon receipt of a charge status code, related to the battery, from the battery charging circuitry; and an external device having an alarm configured to notify a user upon receipt of the transmitted signal from the communication circuitry, wherein the external device receives its power from a source that is independent of the battery to which the charging signal is provided," and therefore claim 23 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, claims 1-21 and 23 are in form for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,
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